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Crook & Willington Urban District Council



CROOK AND WILLINGTON
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

R E P O R T
of the
M E D I C A L O F F I C E R
O F H E A L T H
for the
Year Ended 31st December, 1959.

No. 6 Health Area,
"Springfield"
WILLINGTON,
Crook, Co. Durham.

Tel: Willington 375.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS
OF THE COUNCIL

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Medical Officer of Health - G. A. MACGREGOR, M.D., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector - J. B. KELLY, D.P.A.(Dunelm.,) D.M.A., A.R.S.H.

Public Health Inspector - C. E. DAVISON, M.A.P.H.I.

Public Health Inspector - W. F. WILKINSON, M.A.P.H.I. from (24.12.56 to 22. 2.59)

Public Health Inspector - E. LEES, M.A.P.H.I.(commenced 13.7.59)



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To the Chairman and Members ofCrook and Willington U.D.C.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As a whole the public health of your district has been satisfactory and compares favourably with preceeding years.

The birth rate continues to be lower than and the death rate higher than the corresponding figures for England and Wales. The Infantile Mortality rate, however, is still considerably in excess of that of the County as a whole due to the persistence of the "hard core" causes of death viz. prematurity and congenital malformations.

1. <u>Statistics.</u>	<u>1955 (Mid year)</u>	<u>1959 (Mid year)</u>
<u>Population</u>	27,050	26,680
(a) Birth Rate (per 1000 pop.)	13.05	14.17
" " (Eng. & Wales)	15.0	16.5
(b) Death Rate (per 1000 pop.)	13.05	12.21
" " (Eng. & Wales)	11.7	11.6
(c) Deaths from Puerperal Causes	Nil	Nil
(d) Infant Mortality Rate		
(per 1000 live births)	22.66	33.15
" Mortality Rate		
(Eng. & Wales)	24.9	22.0

2. Infectious Diseases

There has again been no case of diphtheria notified during 1959 - for the eighth year running. Still, however, despite the facilities available for immunisation against the disease the response by the public is poor.

The number of new cases of tuberculosis notified has continued to decline and the Mass Radiography Unit functioned satisfactorily in the district during the year.

Measles was very prevalent throughout 1959 and fortunately was mild with no serious complications but a mild gastro-intestinal infection continued to occur from time to time especially among younger age groups. The characteristics of these complaints seem to be mild diarrhoea with or without vomiting, transient temperature, loss of appetite, restlessness and abrupt cessation of symptoms after a period varying from about 4 - 7 days. There is slight loss of weight and recovery is often accompanied by enhanced appetite.

3. Poliomyelitis

The response to the campaign for immunisation against poliomyelitis has been good among pre school and school age children but poor in later age groups largely due to indifference despite intensified propaganda. No cases of paralysis due to the disease have been notified. The true incidence of non paralytic cases is uncertain owing to the diversity of symptoms which confuse accurate clinical diagnosis.

An example of a case which occurred during the year illustrates how the underlying cause of the illness can be obscured. A child of 8 months became ill one day during the summer with a temperature over 100°F, irritability and cough. The illness was diagnosed as a common cold, subsided in 3 - 4 days time and thereafter dismissed by the parents as "just one of those things". It was not until the child was about 15 months that the mother began to wonder why the child was slow in walking by itself. It was found on examination that there was weakness in the calf muscles of the left leg and the specialist to whom the child was referred was of the opinion that this weakness was due to poliomyelitis contracted when the child was 8 months old. The child is now walking and the weakness has disappeared.

4. Housing

Slum Clearance programmes continued steadily during 1959 and towards the end of the year consideration was being directed to dealing with houses which were less obviously in the slum category and whose future required very careful consideration. Waiting lists were still very long for Council houses and it will be a considerable time yet before the supply can equal the demand.

Housing of old people continues to be a problem and in my opinion the number of houses set aside for the aged in the various Council Housing Schemes in your district are too few especially to cater for an ageing population. Also when siting houses for old people more consideration might be given to ease of access to shopping and communications.

A separate section of this report compiled by your Chief Health Inspector is incorporated with this report.

Concluding, I would like to record my appreciation of the co-operation of the staff of the Public Health Department.

I have the honour to be, ladies and gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. A. MACGREGOR,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT - 1959CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Population (Registrar General's Estimate - Mid Year)	...	...	26,680
Area (In Acres)	...	...	15,476
Number of Inhabited Houses (Mid Year)	...	...	8,789
Rateable Value	...	...	£213,283
Product of Penny Rate	...	...	£820

VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	362	189	173
Illegitimate	<u>16</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>
	<u>378</u>	<u>197</u>	<u>181</u>
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	...	...	14.17
General Birth Rate (England and Wales)	...	...	16.5

<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	9	8	1
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>2</u>
Rate per 1,000 (live and still)	...	...	14.54

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
	<u>326</u>	<u>165</u>	<u>161</u>
Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	...	...	12.21
Death Rate (England and Wales)	...	...	11.6

Deaths from Puerperal Causes

Puerperal Sepsis Nil

Other Puerperal Causes .. Nil

Deaths of Infants under one year of age

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	12	7	5
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>12</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	
Legitimate	10	7	3	
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	
	<u>10</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>3</u>	
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	31.74
Infantile Mortality Rate (England and Wales)	...	...	...	22.0
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births - legitimate	...	...	...	33.15
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births - illegitimate	...	...	...	-
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1000 total live births)	...	...	...	26.46
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1000 total live births)	...	...	...	23.81
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1000 total live and still births)	...	...	...	47.73
Deaths from Cancer	...	...	...	52
Deaths from Measles	...	...	...	-
Deaths from Diarrhoea	...	...	...	2
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	-

Table of Birth and Death Rates for the past 6 years

Year	Death Rate	Infantile Death Rate under 1 year	Birth Rate
1954	13.85	42.10	14.01
1955	13.5	22.66	13.05
1956	14.48	13.44	13.89
1957	15.51	15.26	14.73
1958	14.41	31.02	15.35
1959	12.21	31.74	14.17

CAUSES OF DEATHS

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	1	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	7	2
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	6	-
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	6
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	7
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	15	9
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	1
16. Diabetes... ..	-	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	29	39
18. Coronary disease, angina	20	25
19. Hypertension with heart disease	3	1
20. Other heart diseases	29	32
21. Other circulatory disease	9	8
22. Influenza	-	-
23. Pneumonia	4	1
24. Bronchitis	9	4
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	10	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	-	2
28. Nephritis, and nephrosis	4	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	1	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	8	14
33. Motor vehicle accidents	2	-
34. All other accidents	4	3
35. Suicide	2	1
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-
	<u>165</u>	<u>161</u>

NOTE - Diseases of the heart and circulatory system are responsible for 60% of the total deaths.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified</u>	<u>Cases admitted to Hospital</u>	<u>Total Deaths</u>
Dysentery	-	-	-
Measles	998	3	-
Whooping Cough	41	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-
Scarlet Fever	20	2	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-
Tuberculosis	4	4	2
Pneumonia	3	-	5

The following Table shows the number of cases notified and deaths recorded from Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever during the past 6 years.

YEAR	DIPHTHERIA		SCARLET FEVER	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
1954	-	-	16	-
1955	-	-	6	-
1956	-	-	14	-
1957	-	-	24	-
1958	-	-	11	-
1959	-	-	20	-

NOTIFIED DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1952

The following table gives the incidence of Notifiable Disease during the year.

Disease	Under 1 yr.	1 - 2 yrs.	3 - 4 yrs.	5 - 9 yrs.	10 - 14 yrs.	15 - 24 yrs.	25 - 44 yrs.	45 - 64 yrs.	65 and Over	TOTAL
Scarlet fever	-	3	2	11	4	-	-	-	-	20
Whooping cough	3	6	17	14	1	-	-	-	-	41
Measles	35	201	215	514	31	1	1	-	-	998
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Puerperal pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5.- 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 44	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
45 - 64	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 & over	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	2	1	-	1	2	-	-	-

NUMBER OF CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS ON REGISTER

AT 31st DECEMBER, 1959.

Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total
Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Cases
224	184	408	115	134	249	657

COMPARATIVE TUBERCULOSIS STATISTICS FOR RECENT YEARS

Y.E.R	New Cases				Deaths				No. on Register at end of Year						
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary				
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total			
1954	16	13	29	3	1	4	1	-	-	168	135	303	105	122	227
1955	10	8	18	2	2	4	1	-	1	201	164	365	109	126	235
1956	4	8	12	2	1	3	5	1	-	211	174	385	113	129	242
1957	7	5	12	2	3	5	2	-	2	218	179	397	115	132	247
1958	5	3	8	-	1	1	3	-	-	222	183	405	115	133	248
1959	2	1	3	-	1	1	2	-	-	224	184	408	115	134	249

Annual Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

(1) WATER SUPPLY :

The Durham County Water Board are the principal suppliers of water in this area and the vast majority of houses are connected to their mains. No houses are supplied by means of stand pipes but a few farms and cottages are dependent upon well supplies. A typical analysis of a mains supply is as follows :-

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

	WASKERLEY	TUNSTALL
Colour Hazen Units	28-75	40
Turbidity	Slight	Slight
Odour	None	None
pH Value	6.5 - 6.7	6.7

GENERAL CHEMICAL EXAMINATION

	PARTS PER MILLION	
Total Solids	50-100	120
Suspended Solids	Trace	Trace
Hardness as Ca CO ₃		
Carbonate hardness	Nil-1.8	18.6
Non-carbonate hardness	35.6 - 67.6	50.0
Total hardness	35.6 - 69.4	68.6
Chlorides as Cl	10.0 - 12.0	11.5
Nitrates as N	0.31 - 0.48	0.13
Free and Saline Ammonia as N	0.026 - 0.233	0.05
Albumoid Ammonia as N	0.073 - 0.135	0.08
Oxygen absorbed		
4 hours @ 27°C as O	3.05 - 9.25	5.86

There is no evidence of plumbo solvent action in the water supplied in the area.

During the year 2 samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination by the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle and both proved to be satisfactory.

Miscellaneous queries and complaints regarding water supply, including complaints of excess chlorination of the water supply of parts of the area, were dealt with as they arose.

(2) VISITS :

The following is a summary of the visits undertaken by Officers of the Department during the year in pursuit of their official duties :

(1) Housing (Public Health and Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1897
(2) W.C. conversions and defective sanitary conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	542
(3) Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	283
(4) Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
(5) Food Premises and slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1487
(6) Shops Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
(7) Tents, Vans, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
(8) Factories and Workplaces	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	80
(9) Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
(10) Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	97
(11) Offensive Accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
(12) Smoke Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
(13) Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	64

To this list must be added numerous other visits and inspections which cannot be categorised, in connection with the health and well being of the residents of the district.

(3) NUISANCES ETC.

The following table shows the principal nuisances dealt with during the year by means of notices. Many other nuisances were remedied as a result of informal action by Officers of the department.

	No. of Informal Notices served	No. of Statutory Notices served	Defects Remedied after Notices
Public Health and Housing Acts	37	1	35
Defective Sanitary Conveniences	22	-	20
Drainage	5	-	4
Water Supply	5	-	5
Dustbins	6	-	4

(4) SCHOOLS

Occasional inspections of Schools in the district were made in connection with sanitary accommodation and washing and canteen facilities. No nuisances were reported.

(5) CINEMAS AND PUBLIC HALLS

Inspections of these premises were carried out during the year and appropriate action taken where defects occurred.

(6) SMOKE ABATEMENT

Industrial smoke continues to cause little appreciable nuisance in this semi-rural area. Nuisances from burning rubbish and smoking chimneys have received attention as they have occurred. The Council continued to support the various local committees set up to deal with the problem of smoke pollution and took steps to adopt the Model Byelaw controlling the installation of heating appliances in new buildings.

(7) PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS

During the 12 months ended 31st. December, 1959 202 dwelling houses and 265 shops and agricultural properties were inspected. Out of these, 141 houses and shops and other premises were found to be infested by rats and/or mice and treatment was carried out accordingly. No charge is made for the treatment of domestic property but shops and agricultural hereditaments are treated on a cost plus supervision basis. Close supervision of the Council's refuse tips and sewage works continued during the year.

(8) SHOPS AND FOOD PREMISES

Numerous visits have been paid to shops, food preparing premises and licensed premises throughout the district. The overall standard of hygiene in the shops continues to be satisfactory and informal action has sufficed to deal with whatever complaints have arisen both in pursuance of the Shops Acts, and the Food Hygiene Regulations.

The following premises in the area are concerned with the manufacture and/or retailing of food.

23 Butchers
5 Chemists
20 Confectioners
22 Fish Shops
4 Fruiterers
63 General Dealers
10 Grocers
50 Grocers
3 Stalls
20 Restaurants, School Kitchens, Hotel Kitchens and Canteens.
9 Bakehouses
2 Food Facto. es
15 Premises registered for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or preserved etc. food.
3 Premises for the manufacture and sale of ice cream
33 Milk Distributors, 23 of these being registered as dairies,

The three premises affected by the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations, 1947-52 operated satisfactorily and the ice cream at each of the premises was sampled regularly for bacteriological examination.

3 applications for registration for the retailing of ice cream were granted during the year. The total number of premises registered for this purpose is now 72.

21 applications for renewal licences to retail pasteurised milk were granted during the year together with 12 renewal licences for the sale of sterilised milk, and 3 supplementary licences.

(9) SLAUGHTERHOUSES :

During the year 16 slaughterhouses were registered for the purpose of slaughtering and the state of cleanliness generally prevailing was satisfactory although the same cannot be said for the meat inspection facilities at some of the slaughterhouses. Sunday slaughtering throughout the year continued to make considerable inroads into the time and convenience of inspectors. Some indication of the work involved on meat inspection is given by the making of 1487 visits to slaughterhouses and food premises during the year.

The following table gives details of the carcasses and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part :

	Cattle <u>Excluding Cows</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	Sheep & Lambs	<u>Pigs</u>
Number of Carcasses inspected	3,875	800	55	12,182	16,940
<u>All diseases except</u> <u>Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	19	4	2	19	18
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	414	-	-	42	418
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and cysticerci	11.17	.5%	3.63	.55	2.57
<u>Tuberculosis only :</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	4	1	-	-	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	215	-	-	-	300
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	5.7	.125	-	-	1.78

10 beast carcasses were found to be affected with Cysticercosis

(10) FOOD ETC. CONDEMNED :

During the year 10 tons 4 cwt. 3 st. 11 lbs. of fresh meat, and 15 cwt. 5 St. 3 lbs. 1 oz. of miscellaneous tinned foods and loose provisions were condemned as unfit for human consumption. Carcasses and large amounts of meat, after staining, are disposed of to either Messrs. Jennings and Co. Ltd., Darlington, or to Mr. Miller, Hamsterley, who both operate private arrangements with the butchers affected. Small items of condemned meat are burnt privately by the butchers concerned. Unsound tinned food and loose provisions are disposed of at the Council's refuse tips.

11. W.C. Conversions - During the year 207 W.C. conversions were effected including 143 conversions in the villages of Hunwick and Sunnyside carried out in the Council's first compulsory conversion scheme.

In the ten year period January 1950 to December 1959 1,881 ashclosets in the district have been converted to the water carriage system.

During the year the Council's second compulsory scheme involving 253 conversions mainly in the Crook and Willington townships, was prepared.

12. Housing - Housing Inspection for various purposes again figured prominently in the work of the department. Progress was made towards the final stages of the first five year Slum Clearance programme and clearance areas involving 87 dwellings were represented to the Council during the year. In connection with slum clearance comment must be made on the difficulty encountered in enforcing the demolition and site clearance of condemned houses. Officers of the department have striven unceasingly to achieve the tidying up of derelict sites and despite the unsatisfactory appearance of many of the sites, matters would have been a good deal worse but for the efforts made.

A large amount of time has been spent during the year in persuading and requiring property Owners to improve and repair their houses. Much rewarding work has been devoted to the supervision of improvement grants and an increase in the number of applications resulted from the introduction of the Standard Grants Scheme in mid 1959.

During the year there were submitted to the Council 48 applications for Standard Grants, principally from Owner-Occupiers and applications for Discretionary Grants in respect of 74 houses.

13. Collection and Disposal of Refuse and Salvage -

Number of premises cleansed regularly	9,225
Number of collections during the year	591,032
Total refuse collected	21,145 tons
Yield per premise per year	2.292 tons
Average haul to tips	2 miles
Number of tips	5
Number of men employed (average)	36
Number of vehicles employed on Refuse Collection etc.	10 (+ 1 spare)
Number of vehicles employed on Salvage and Trade Refuse	1
Salvage collections	46 $\frac{3}{4}$ tons
Salvage income	£419. 1. 7d

As a consequence of the progressive reduction in the number of ashclosets to cleanse, combined with the acquisition of a large capacity cleansing vehicle it was found possible towards the end of the year to reduce the number of cleansing districts from ten to nine. This should result in a saving in the costs of vehicle operation and maintenance.

Some indication of the economies which have been made possible by the Council's extensive programme of W.C. Conversions, the clearance of slum properties and improvements in the organisation of the refuse collection service is given by the following table:-

1951	-	14	vehicles	actually	engaged	in	refuse	collection
1955	-	12	"	"	"	"	"	"
1957	-	10	"	"	"	"	"	"
1959 (late)	9	"	"	"	"	"	"	"

Throughout this period the average capacity of the vehicles employed has not varied appreciably with the exception that, as mentioned above, late in 1959 one vehicle of a much larger capacity came into operation.

13. Contd/.....

The year under review, saw a rapid improvement in the Council's methods of refuse disposal. The wise acquisition of mechanical earthmoving equipment enabled properly controlled methods of tipping to be adopted on the main tips and a start to be made with the re-development of the refuse tip at Willington.

14. Factories Acts 1937 and 1948 - During the year 80 inspections of premises subject to the Factories Acts were made principally in connection with sanitary accommodation.

In conclusion I would express to the Members of the Council my appreciation of their support and encouragement during the year and my sincere thanks to my colleagues in the Health Department for their invaluable assistance.

J. B. KELLY

Chief Public Health Inspector.